



# ROCKETSHIP

California State Board of Education  
Consideration of Rocketship Mt. Diablo Charter

March 10, 2016





**5,492**  
Rocketship  
Rocketeers



**10**  
Bay Area  
Schools



Serving  
**PreK - 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Grades



**86%**  
Socioeconomically  
Disadvantaged



**56%**  
English  
Language  
Learners



**7%**  
Special  
Education



**81%**  
Hispanic

Rocketship Education is a non-profit network of public elementary charter schools serving primarily low-income students in neighborhoods where access to excellent schools is limited.

**By rethinking elementary education from the ground up, we will eliminate the achievement gap in our lifetime.**



# Gap-Closing Growth

## Accelerating Student Achievement Every School Year

### 2014-15 Growth on NWEA MAP

All Rocketeers grew...



1.7 years in math

1.5 years in reading

Grade level growth

First year Rocketeers grew...



1.8 years in math

1.6 years in reading

Grade level growth



# Our Rocketeers Beat the Odds on New CAASPP

### 2014-15 CA State Assessment Results

percent of students grades 3-5 classified as socio-economically disadvantaged who met or exceeded new Common Core standards



**ROCKETSHIP RANKS IN THE  
99<sup>TH</sup> PERCENTILE  
IN MATH AND THE  
86<sup>TH</sup> PERCENTILE  
IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

AMONG CALIFORNIA ELEMENTARY DISTRICTS SERVING LOW-INCOME STUDENTS

- Rocketship
- Surrounding Districts\*
- CA state average

\* Surrounding districts include Alum Rock Union Elementary, Franklin-McKinley Elementary and San Jose Unified school districts.



# Monument Corridor Families Want This Choice

**Over 1,100**  
parent signatures for  
petition to establish  
Rocketship Mt. Diablo

## CONTRA COSTA TIMES

### **Guest commentary: My children deserve a quality education at a new Rocketship school**

*By Salvador Ramirez*

POSTED: 10/19/2015 05:32:01 PM PDT

I am a proud resident and business owner in the Monument community. Like me, many in our community immigrated to the United States to find a better life for our children. My dream is to send all five of my children to college. But the schools in our community are not preparing our kids for college.

Only 15 percent of our Latino students in Contra Costa County graduate high school ready to go to college. I want a better choice for my children. And so do the 1,000 other parents in Concord who signed the petition to bring Rocketship education to our community.



## Personalized Learning

# Reach Each Student with the Right Content, at the Right Time, Using the Right Instructional Method

**Teachers** lead the learning process,  
build understanding of new concepts, and  
differentiate instruction to targeted groups

← data →

### Online Learning Programs

give students daily targeted  
practice on math and reading

← data →

**Tutors** provide focused  
intervention to students  
with similar needs

← data →



## Rotational Model

# An Extended School Day Guided By Content Experts

### **HUMANITIES** (200 minutes per day)

- Reading, writing, language arts with embedded social studies, history, and science content

### **STEM** (100 minutes per day)

- Math with science and writing embedded

### **LEARNING LAB** (100 minutes per day)

- Adaptive online learning
- Targeted tutoring in small groups

### **ENRICHMENTS** (40 minutes per day)

- Varies by school, included PE, gardening, art

#### **SAMPLE 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE SCHEDULE**



Launch: 7:45



Universal Breakfast: 8:00



Enrichment: 8:20



Humanities: 9:00



Lunch & Recess: 12:00



Integrated Math: 12:40



Break: 2:10



Learning Lab + Tutoring: 2:20



Dismissal: 4:00



After-School Program: 4:10





## Humanities Block

# Integrated Instruction with Differentiated Supports

8:00 am (10 minutes)

**COMMUNITY MEETING:** Universal breakfast & lesson on social emotional learning.

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8:10 am (10 minutes)

**DO NOW:** Teacher checks homework while students complete a quick warm up activity.

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8:20 am (70 minutes)

**READING COMPREHENSION:** Whole group grade-level instruction with CCSS aligned comprehension objectives and embedded social studies content. Supplemented by ELD standards during class discussion (e.g., speaking in complete sentences).

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9:30 am (60 minutes)

**GUIDED READING:** Designated small group instruction targeted at student's individual grade level. Groups of 5-6 students pulled by teachers for 20 minute intervals. Frequent co-teaching with ISE specialists pulling small groups for designated instruction.

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10:30 am (20 minutes)

**LANGUAGE ARTS:** Whole group grade level instruction on grammar and language mechanics.

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10:50 am (30 minutes)

**WRITING WORKSHOP:** Whole group grade-level instruction on skills and habits necessary for skillful writing (e.g., how to write an introduction, brainstorming before writing). Students then released to write independently while teacher provides direct 1:1 support.





# Our Classrooms Serve All Students

## MEANINGFUL INCLUSION

- All students with disabilities have daily access to the general education environment. Vast majority spend 80% of day in general education. Coupled with pull-out services for individual support when appropriate.

## HIGH EXPECTATIONS & GROWTH

- Similar growth expectations as our typically developing students.
- Students with IEPs achieved **1.8 years growth in MATH** and **1.4 years growth in ELA.\***



Rocketeer at annual Rocketship Special Olympics.

## RESEARCH BASED, TEAM APPROACH

- Focused on co-teaching and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) approach to instructional planning.
- All IEP goals are aligned to grade level Common Core state standard.



## Excellent Teachers

# Building a Culture of Transformational Teachers

### CREDENTIALIALED

- All teachers are credentialed
- <15% of teachers are TFA corps members

### SUBJECT SPECIALIZATION

- Deeper content expertise
- Greater collaboration between teachers

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Weekly 1:1 coaching
- Low 6:1 teacher to school leader ratio
- 300 hours professional development per year

### PERFORMANCE-BASED COMPENSATION

- Student growth weighted
- High performers reach top of pay scale in less than 10 years



## Excellent Teachers

# Continuing To Increase Teacher Retention is Key Focus

### COST OF LIVING

- Annual housing stipend

### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

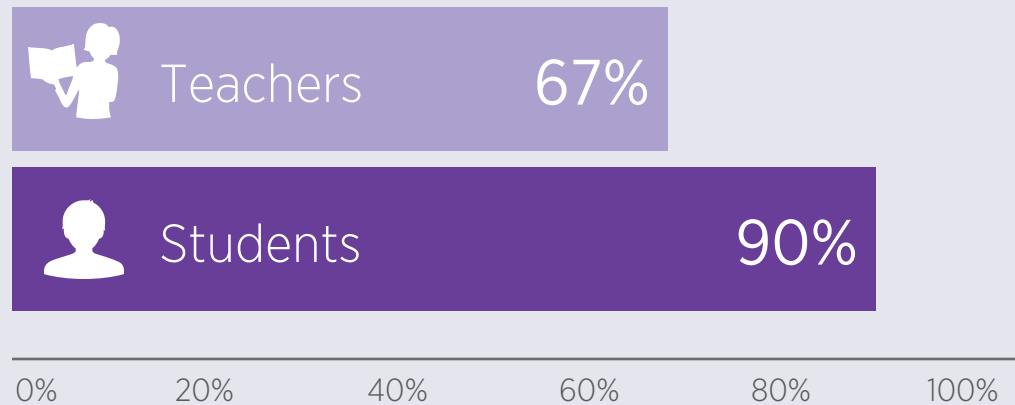
- Professional development fund for teachers with 3+ years at Rocketship

### TEACHER VOICE

- Teacher Advisory Group consists of 11 teachers across 7 schools

### 2015-16 Retention

Teachers & Students



Excellent Teachers

# Strong Team Culture Defined By Passion & Respect

2014-15 Teacher average: 5.2

Teacher average

5.5

Strongly Disagree

Neutral

Strongly Agree

*91% of teachers completed survey*

## TEAM CULTURE

I enjoy my day to day work.

I have strong working relationships.

The people around me are committed to doing excellent work.

I have the resources and support I need.

School leadership and staff communicate effectively.

My opinions are valued.

In the last 7 days I have received recognition or praise.



## Engaged Parents

# Our Parents are Engaged at Home and School

### ACHIEVEMENT

- Annual home visits
- 3 parent teacher conferences per year

### GOVERNANCE

- 3-5 School Site Council meetings per year
- English Language Advisory Committees

### COMMUNITY

- Parent coffees
- Monthly community meetings
- Family math nights
- Family literacy events
- Volunteer support



Rocketship parents lead **Los Dichos**, a Latino literature program designed to support English Language Learners.

**70%+ turnout at parent events**

## Student Population

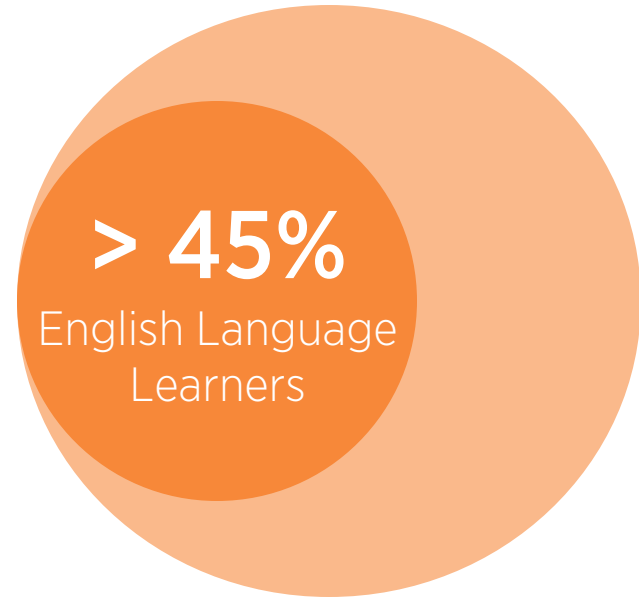
# Monument Corridor Students are Similar to Rocketship



**Rocketship Bay Area (87%)**  
Meadow Homes (94%)  
Cambridge Elementary (97%)  
Fair Oaks (81%)

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Mt Diablo Unified (47%)  
CA state average (60%)



**Rocketship Bay Area (56%)**  
Meadow Homes (63%)  
Cambridge Elementary (65%)  
Fair Oaks (48%)

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Mt Diablo Unified (25%)  
CA state average (26%)

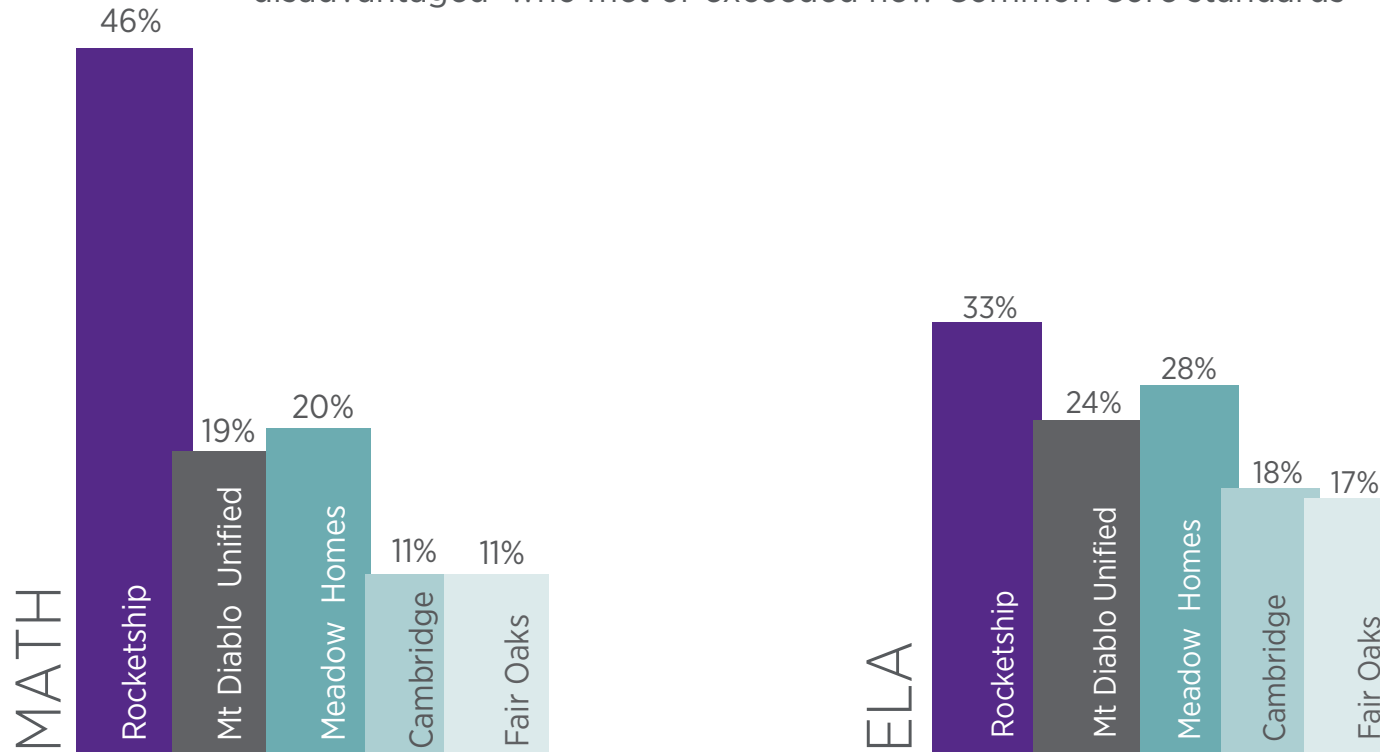


# Comparative Achievement

## Families In Mt. Diablo Deserve This Choice

### 2014-15 CA State Assessment Results

percent of students grades 3-5 classified as socio-economically disadvantaged who met or exceeded new Common Core standards



Source: California Department of Education. Grades 3-5 percentages calculated by Rocketship Education from grade-level data in research files downloaded from the CAASPP website.



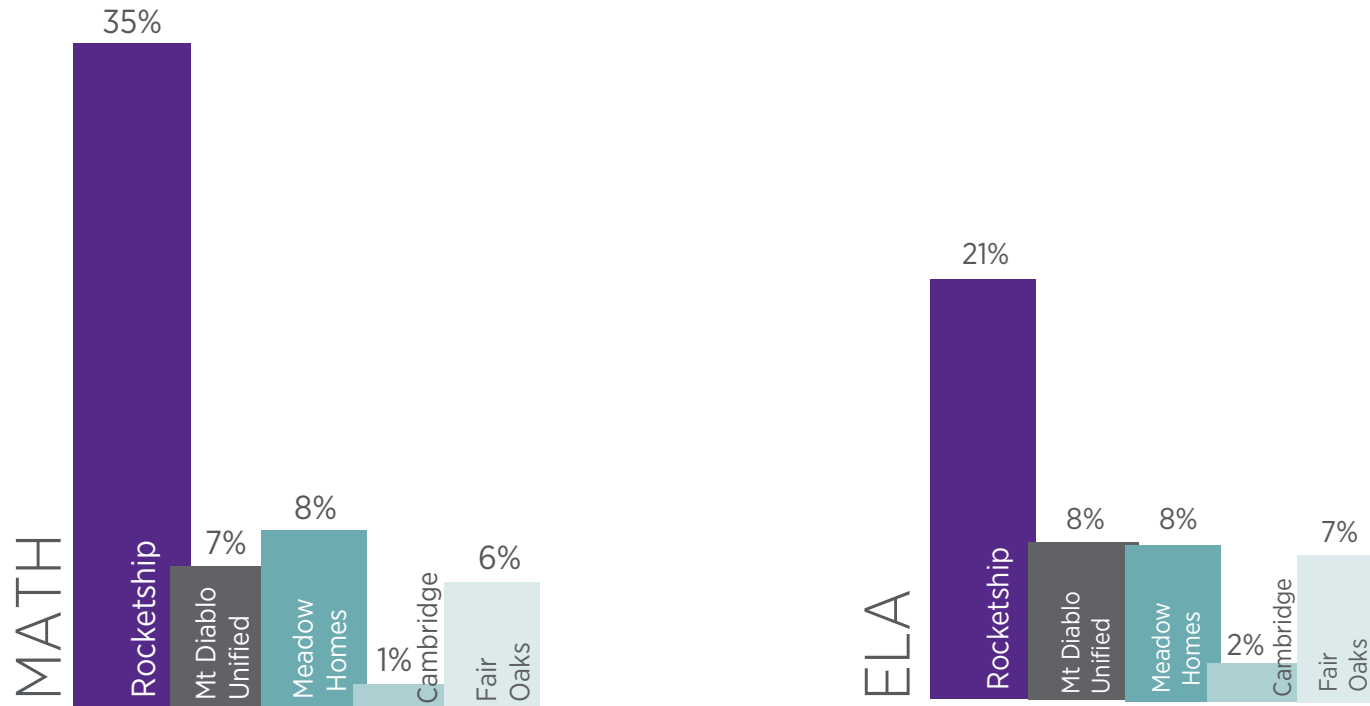


# Comparative Achievement

## English Language Learners Deserve This Choice

### 2014-15 CA State Assessment Results

percent of students grades 3-5 classified as English Language Learners who met or exceeded new Common Core standards



Source: California Department of Education. Grades 3-5 percentages calculated by Rocketship Education from grade-level data in research files downloaded from the CAASPP website.



## Rocketship Mt. Diablo

# Over 1,100 Parents are Waiting For a Quality Choice



### ABUNDANT NEED

- ✓ Longstanding achievement gap

### STRONG DEMAND

- ✓ 1,100+ parent signatures for Rocketship Mt. Diablo petition

### COMMUNITY VOICE

- ✓ Establishment of East Bay Regional Advisory Board

### SOUND MODEL

- ✓ California Dept. of Education staff recommends approval concluding Rocketship has a sound educational and financial model



# Appendix



# Transformational Schools

## Serve All Students, Empower Teachers, Engage Parents



### Personalized Learning

**Matching the right student with the right content at the right time**

*Data-driven instruction with dynamic groupings of students to provide targeted instruction*

*Personalized student experiences with social-emotional learning*

*Purposeful use of technology*



### Excellent Teachers & Leaders

**Developing transformational teachers and leaders**

#### **Teachers**

*Teacher specialization, supported by 300+ hours of targeted professional development and coaching*

#### **Leaders**

*A structure that allows leaders to focus on instructional leadership, and a robust principal development program*



### Engaged Parents

**Supporting parent advocacy and leadership**

*Partnering with parents on their children's success at Rocketship...*

*...and helping them organize and advocate for better options for their families and communities*



# Rocketeer Performance Persists Into Middle School

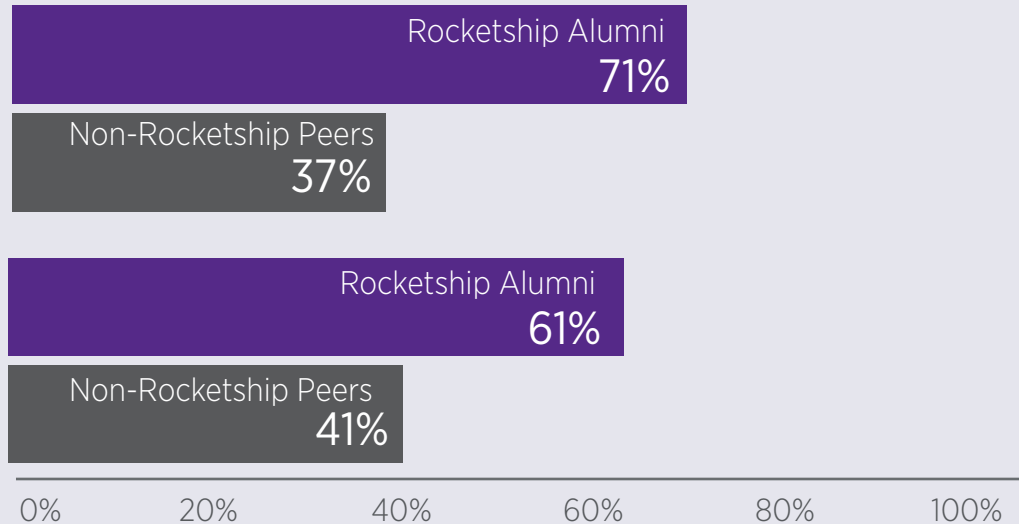
## SRI International Middle School Study

Rocketship alumni one year out  
from elementary school vs peers

% scoring at or above national norm  
on NWEA MAP

Math

ELA



Notes: NWEA analysis includes data from ACE and KIPP, excluding students who had attended Rocketship for fewer than three semesters. The comparison group was composed of students attending the participating charter schools who had not attended a Rocketship elementary school. This analysis does not control for differences in student demographics.



# Helping Schools Focus More Time on Instruction.

**Our Commitment:** Rocketship is focused on easing the administrative burden of our schools, so they can focus exclusively on instruction and student achievement.

We do this by centralizing a full-range of services:

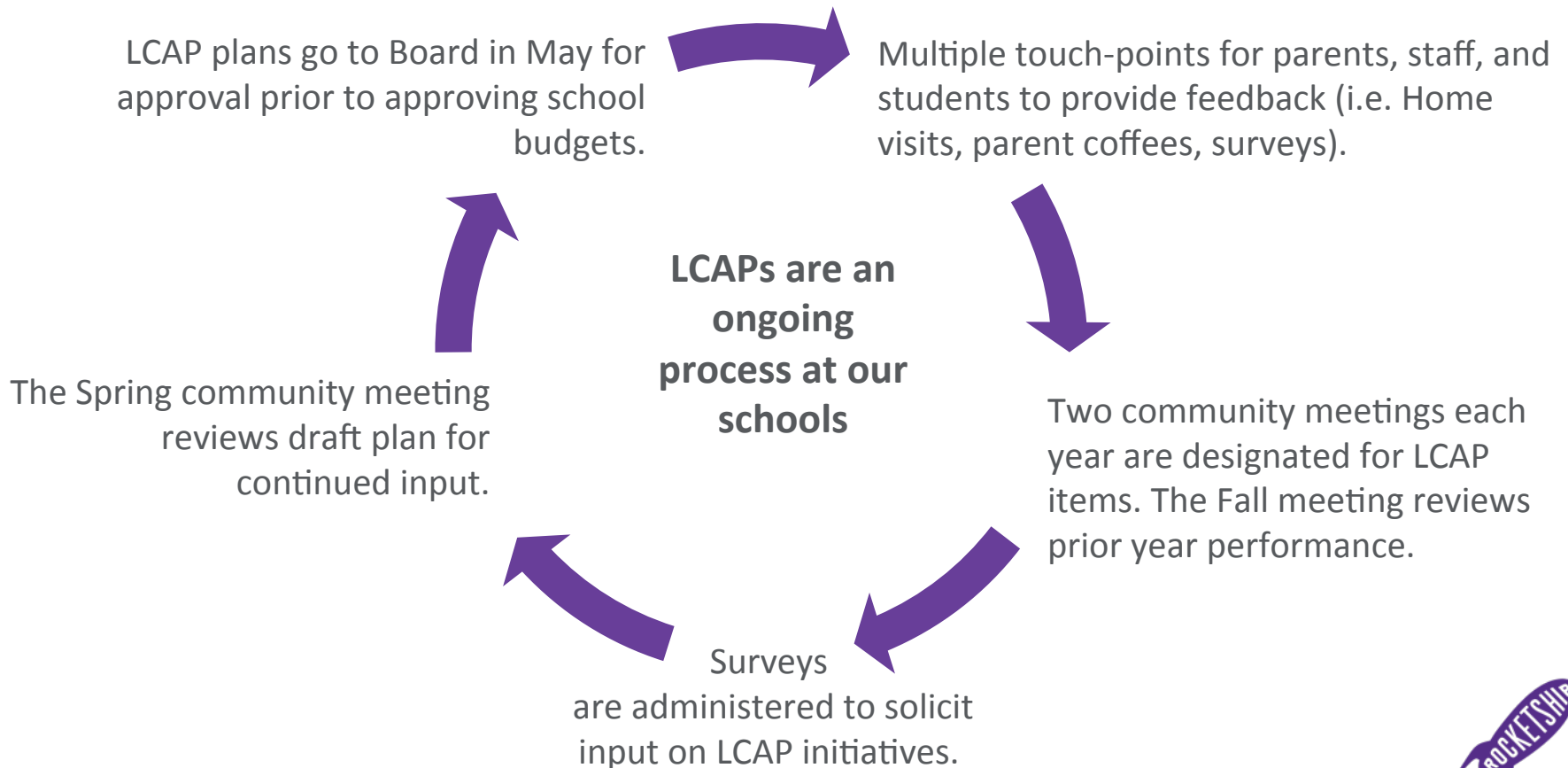
- Accounting & Payroll
- Human Resources
- Legal
- Teacher Recruitment
- Talent Management
- Student Recruitment
- Parent Leadership
- Data Analysis
- IT
- Facilities Management
- Governance
- Compliance
- And More!



# School-Based Accountability

## Ensuring Parent Voice in Decision-Making

**Our Commitment:** Each school develops their own LCAP each year, with input from parents, staff, and students.





# A Commitment to Financial Transparency

**Our Commitment:** Rocketship is committed to fiscal transparency and responsible fiscal management, such that all schools have published financial statements within our annual financial audit.

- Rocketship tracks and reports financial transactions and balances for each school.
- Each school is audited and school-by-school financials and information are included in our annual financial audit.
- Our most recent financial audit had no findings.
- Currently work with three authorizers in the Bay Area and provide these authorizers separate financial reports for their respective schools.
- Financial reserves at our CA schools **have not** been used to cover deficits outside of California.
- Rocketship fundraises at the school, regional and national level to cover deficits experienced at a school.
- *As an example, Rocketship is currently holding philanthropic funding restricted for RSMD and will be used to cover school start-up expenses.*



# Every Student Deserves a Quality Educational Facility

**Our Commitment:** Rocketship believes every student deserves access to a high quality educational facility.

- Recognizing the high cost of facilities, **SB740** was enacted to provide **funding assistance** to charter schools for **facility costs**.
- To access this funding, charters schools are required to **lease** their facility **from a third party**.
- Similar to many other CMOs, Rocketship uses an **independent 501(c)3** organization as its primary **holder of real estate** to meet this requirement.

